



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Personnel Accounting Progress in Korea as of February 4, 2005

Cold War Statistics

Recovered Alive 1969 – Present	Remains Recovered 1969 - Present	Remains Identified 1969 – Present	Remaining Unaccounted for
0	2	2	29*

***Loss Incident Information:** On April 15, 1969, North Korean fighter aircraft shot down a U.S. Navy EC-121 aircraft carrying a crew of 31 over the Sea of Japan. U.S. Navy ships recovered two sets of remains.

Korean War Statistics

Remains Repatriated Through Joint Field Activities 1996 - Present	Remains Identified Through Joint Field Activities 1996 - Present	Remains Identified From Unknowns at the “Punch Bowl” Cemetery in Hawaii 2003 - Present	Total Joint Field Activities Completed 1996 - Present
224	20	1	32

Remains Repatriated Through Unilateral Operations 1990 – 1994	Remains Identified Through Unilateral Operations 1990 – 1994	Total Number of Remains Identified 1982 – Present	Remaining Unaccounted for
208*	11	37**	8,117***

* 208 boxes of remains received from DPRK unilateral operations; many remains were commingled.

** 31 remains identified from both unilateral and joint search and recovery operations in North Korea (DPRK); Five (5) remains identified from search and recovery operations in South Korea (ROK) conducted since 1982; one (1) set of remains identified from the “Punch Bowl” cemetery in Hawaii.

*** This is a working number from the Personnel Missing Korea (PMKOR) list.

Korean War Accounting Efforts on the Peninsula

- The three main pillars of the Korean War program are:
 - **Live-Sighting resolution**. DPMO, with the full support of the intelligence community, aggressively investigates all reports and sightings of alleged American survivors of the Korean War living in North Korea. There have been no credible reports to date other than those that pertain to four known U.S. defectors to North Korea.
 - **Archival Research and Oral History**. Archival research and oral history programs are in place and related activities periodically occur in the U.S., North and South Korea, and China. These programs are designed to determine the circumstances of loss for missing service men; build our knowledge base on Korean War battle incidents; gain eyewitness accounts of prison camp life and prisoner movements; and gain access to materials and maps germane to POW / missing personnel matters.
 - **Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in North and South Korea**. The US. pays fair and reasonable expenses associated with the efforts to recover remains. We avoid any kind of direct payment for remains or information because it would be analogous to paying ransom for hostages.

Background

- 1951-1955: American Graves Registration Teams searched South Korean Battlefields for remains. North Korea returned several thousand sets of remains in Operation GLORY in 1954; approximately 867 sets of remains were declared unknown. Of these, 866 were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punch Bowl) and one in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.
- 1990: North Korea unilaterally recovered and turned over 16 sets of remains.
- 1992 May: 30 sets of remains were repatriated through the United Nations Command (UNC).
- 1993-1994: 162 sets of remains were returned following the signing of a UNC/Korea Peoples Army (KPA) remains repatriation agreement: 148 were returned in 1993; 14 in 1994.
- 1994: Kim Il Sung unexpectedly accepted former President Carter's proposal to conduct JFAs to search for U.S. remains. Political differences postponed immediate implementation.
- 1996
 - 2 JFAs scheduled; 1 completed.
 - U.S. – DPRK agreed in NY during talks to conduct JROs. First JRO conducted in July, resulting in the recovery of one set of remains. A second JRO was cancelled due to tensions generated by a North Korean submarine infiltration of South Korea.
- 1997
 - 3 JFAs scheduled; 3 completed.
 - May: At the U.S. – DPRK talks in NY both sides discussed restarting joint recoveries, initiating archival reviews, and establishing contact with a reported group of American defectors. North Korea agreed to 3 JFAs.
 - JFA results: 6 sets of remains recovered.

- December: Meetings in NY agreed on five JROs and one joint archival review during 1998.
- 1998
 - 5 JFAs scheduled; 5 completed.
 - Both sides agreed in NY to increase the number of JFAs to 6, and archival reviews to 2 for 1999.
 - JFA results: 22 sets of remains recovered.
- 1999
 - 6 JFAs scheduled; 3 completed.
 - June: North Korea refused to repatriate four sets of remains from the second JFA through Panmunjom. As a result of this action, DPMO canceled the third, fourth and fifth JFAs.
 - North Korea agreed to talks in NY in October to discuss new repatriation procedures. As a result of those talks, the DASD for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs led a delegation to Pyongyang on October 25 to oversee the repatriation of the four sets of remains from the second JFA and the resumption of the final operation of the year as scheduled.
 - JFA results: 13 sets of remains recovered.
 - December: Both sides met in Berlin to discuss operations for 2000. KPA explicitly linked conduct of future JFAs in DPRK to the USG's willingness to provide a large-scale assistance package. DoD rejected such linkage, and the talks ended without an agreement.
- 2000
 - 5 JFAs scheduled; 5 completed.
 - North Korea returned to the negotiating table in Malaysia without preconditions.
 - The U.S. and North Korea agreed to five JFAs for 2000.
 - JFA results: 65 sets of remains recovered.
 - Secretary of State Albright met with DPRK Vice Minister, Marshal Jo Myong Nok when he visited the U.S. in early October. She also met DPRK Chairman Kim Jong Il on her visit to Pyongyang later in October.
 - During both meetings Secretary Albright emphasized the importance of gaining the fullest possible accounting for all missing American servicemen from the Korean War. She pointed out that our efforts and hard work were the bright spots in U.S. – DPRK bilateral relations.
 - In December, both sides met again in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to discuss operations in 2001.
 - The U.S. and North Korea talks were very successful. Both sides agreed to conduct five JFAs during specific time periods at two separate locations concurrently in North Korea.
- 2001
 - 5 JFAs scheduled; 5 completed.
 - One CILHI team continued work in the Kujang area. Another team conducted operations in the Kae'chon City area (known as "The Gauntlet" during the Korean War) during the May, June,

July/August operations, and then moved to the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir for field operations in September, October, and November.

- JRO results: 5 JFAs were conducted at three separate locations (Kujang, Kaechon & Chosin); 44 sets of remains recovered.

- 2002

- 3 JFAs scheduled; 3 completed.
- January: KPA and DPMO met in Bangkok January 23 – 26, to discuss operations for 2002. The talks stalled over the compensation issue.
- June: DPMO resumed talks with the KPA in Bangkok. Both sides agreed to conduct JFAs in North Korea beginning in July.
 - ✓ The KPA agreed to three JFAs to be conducted with teams working concurrently in Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties.
 - ✓ The KPA agreed to allow a U.S. team to conduct an initial survey of sites on the western shores of the Chosin Reservoir during the final JFA, in preparation for future joint operations.
 - ✓ Also, both sides agreed to meet again in Bangkok in October to assess the progress of the operations and to chart a course for future cooperation.
- JRO results: 3 JFAs completed with recovery elements working at two separate locations (Unsan & Changjin/Chosin Reservoir) simultaneously; 26 sets of remains recovered.
- Veterans/Family Group Visit: DPMO sponsored a Veterans/Family Group visit to north Korea September 7 – 14. The purpose of the visit was to show Veterans and Family groups the extent of current recovery operations and demonstrate to the North Koreans the importance of these operations to the U.S. government and the American public.
- On October 6, 2002, DASD Jerry D. Jennings met with Col. Gen. Ri Chon Bok in Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pertinent operational issues in preparation for future JFA talks. The meeting resulted in an agreement-in-principle to continue dialogue on recovery issues.
- The KPA did not respond to DPMO's proposal to conduct 2003 JFA talks in December.

- 2003

- 2 JFAs scheduled; 2 completed.
- From January to June 2003, the KPA did not respond to DPMO's proposal for talks.
- June: DPMO again proposed talks to the KPA for July to discuss JFAs in 2003.
- North Korea agreed to participate. In July, DPMO resumed talks with the KPA in Bangkok. Both sides agreed to conduct JFAs in North Korea beginning in August and ending in October.
 - ✓ The KPA agreed to two JFAs in 2003 with teams working concurrently in Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties.
 - ✓ At the talks, an arrangement was sign by the U.S. and DPRK delegation leaders to conduct 2003 JFAs with enhanced safety measures in the North Korea.

- ✓ Also, both sides also agreed to meet again in Bangkok in November to discuss 2004 JFAs and ways to improve the remains recovery process.
- JFA results: 2 JFAs completed with recovery elements working at two separate locations (Unsan & Changjin/Chosin Reservoir) simultaneously; eight sets of remains recovered.
 - ✓ JFA 30 was the first JFA for 2003. It began August 23rd and ended September 23rd with recovery teams working in Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties.
 - ✓ JFA 31 began September 28 and ended October 28th.
 - ✓ Eight sets of probable U.S. remains from JFA's 30 and 31 were repatriated from North Korea on October 28 and flown to Yokota AB, Japan and then on to Hawaii to begin the identification process. Repatriation ceremonies were conducted at Yokota AB and Hickam AFB in Hawaii.
- November 14 – 15, the U.S. and DPRK met in Bangkok to discuss JFAs for 2004.
 - ✓ The U.S. and DPRK agreed to the following operations:
 - 2 periods of investigative and joint advance work that will take place in April 2004 to prepare for JFAs
 - 5 JFAs that will each take place in two separate locations: Unsan County and Changjin (Chosin-east side) county.
- 2004
 - 5 JFAs scheduled; 5 completed.
 - U.S. and DPRK officials met in Bangkok on February 11, 2004 and discussed two unresolved issues from the November 2003 talks:
 - ✓ Establishing a DPRK point of contact to help resolve viable Live Sighting reports
 - ✓ Overland logistics support to 2004 JFAs and repatriation options.
 - At the February 2004 talks both sides agreed to:
 - ✓ Transport all supplies and equipment over-ground to support 2004 JFAs.
 - ✓ All JFA teams, equipment, and remains recovered during each JFA will depart North Korea across the DMZ at the end of each operation.
 - ✓ Resume repatriating remains recovered during JFAs in North Korea across the demilitarized zone (DMZ) at Panmunjom. U.S. team members will accompany the remains into South Korea.
 - ✓ In addition, for the first time, the North Korean side also agreed to present to their senior leaders a proposal to establish a single point of contact to resolve reports of Americans living in North Korea.
 - KPA pre-investigative period took place from April 3-13, 2004.
 - Joint advance work was conducted from April 13-24, 2004; promising leads developed at both the Unsan and Chosin Reservoir locations.

- JFA results: Five JFAs (32 – 36) were successfully completed between April 24 and October 12, 2004 with investigative and recovery elements working at two separate locations (Unsan & Changjin/Chosin Reservoir) simultaneously; Thirty-nine (39) sets of probable U.S. remains recovered as of October 15, 2004 and are currently located at JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory undergoing the identification process.
- November 17 – 18, the U.S. and DPRK met in Bangkok to discuss JFAs for 2005.
 - ✓ The U.S. and DPRK agreed to the following operations:
 - 1 KPA period of pre-investigative work will take place from March 1-31, 2005;
 - 1 period of Joint advance work from April 2-16, 2005 will prepare for JFAs;
 - 5 JFAs will each take place in two separate locations simultaneously: Unsan County and Changjin County. The JFA in Changjin County will include operations on both the east side and west side of the Chosin Reservoir.
 - A period of joint investigative work will be conducted during JFA 39 (third JFA of 2005).
 - ✓ Plans are underway to conduct U.S. logistical coordination team visit in North Korea during March in preparation for the beginning of the joint advance work period on April 2, 2005.

Associated Developments with China

- The U.S. continues negotiations aimed at gaining access to archives in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The focus is on working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to find avenues to engage the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which controls access to Korean War military archival materials.
- Over the past decade, the USG has presented official requests for information on almost 200 individual Korean War unaccounted for cases. China has provided some substantive information on a small number of these cases.
- During his July 2000 visit to Beijing, SECDEF Cohen highlighted the importance of increased cooperation on Korean War accounting.
- DPMO conducted an oral history program (OHP) in September 2000 that focused on interviews with four Chinese Korean War veterans involved in POW camp operations.
- In January 2001, six U.S. Korean War veterans met with Chinese veterans in Beijing. This was the first Korean War veterans-to-veterans exchange between the U.S. and China and laid the ground work for more oral history and archival research efforts.
- Mr. Jennings led a U.S. delegation to Beijing on March 25-29, 2003. He resumed personnel accounting initiatives ranging from remains recovery operations to archival research, and proposed innovative methods to enhance cooperation between the U.S. and Chinese governments on the personnel accounting issue. He also proposed to regularize meetings with Chinese government officials in Beijing and Washington, D.C. to enhance cooperation on these issues.
- The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) pandemic prevented DPMO and CILHI teams from traveling to Beijing from April through July 2003. The SARS travel ban was lifted in July 2003.

- October 2003 -- DPMO and the new Joint Personnel Accounting Command (JPAC) personnel participated in technical talks with their Chinese counterparts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing October 13th, to plan 2004 activities. Both sides agreed to conduct two recovery operations, a site survey, and pursue archival research initiatives.
- February 2004 -- Technical experts from DPMO and JPAC met with Chinese representatives in Beijing to discuss operational and logistics requirements for the survey and recovery operations in 2004.
- May 10 – June 4, 2004, JPAC conducted investigation and excavation operations at a Korean War F-86 crash site near Dandong and recovered possible human remains and aircraft wreckage.
- June 9 – 29, 2004, JPAC conducted investigation and excavation operations at a Cold War C-47 crash site in Jilin Province and recovered possible human remains and aircraft wreckage.
- November 22, 2004 DPMO and JPAC representatives met with Chinese government officials in Beijing and discussed proposals for possible field operations in China during 2005.

Major Remains Concentrations

POW Camp Burial Sites (1,200)

Unsan/Chongchon Area

Pyongyang Cemetery (185)

Kunuri (404)

Unsan (285)

Kujang (276)

Kuryong (176)

Camp 5 (322)

Apex (270)

Death Valley Camp (233)



Valley #1 Camp

Chosin Reservoir Area (1,079)

Yudamni (199)

Sinhung (100)

Twiggae (244)

Koto ri Cemetery (30)

Hungnam Cemetery (49)

Suan Camps (220)

DM Z (89)

Estimated numbers of remains are in parenthesis